

Center for the Study of Healthcare Provider Behavior

VA HSR&D Center of Excellence
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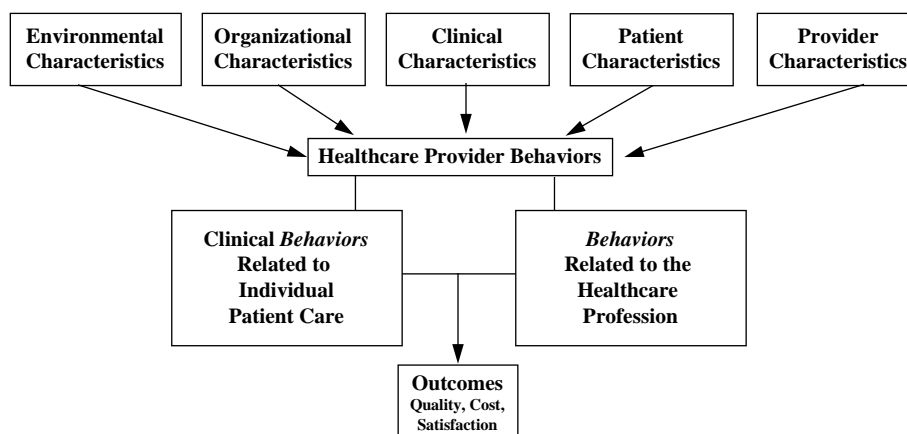
LOCALLY-INITIATED PROJECT PROGRAM

July 2005

Purpose: The mission of the Center is to enhance knowledge about healthcare provider behavior and its determinants, and to use this knowledge to improve the quality and economics of healthcare. The Center's locally-initiated project (LIP) program is intended to assist Center-affiliated researchers in developing expertise, knowledge, and products that support the Center mission. Highest priority for LIP funding is afforded to VA fellows and junior & senior VA researchers seeking funding for pilot studies and other efforts leading to submission of VA and non-VA grant applications.

Projects Eligible for Center Funding: Center-funded projects must be germane to the Center's mission. The Center's highest priority is to fund projects that examine the relationship between determinants of healthcare provider behavior and observed behavior, or that use pre-existing knowledge of these relationships to improve care. (The Center's current conceptual model is shown below.) Projects that measure or develop methods for measuring healthcare provider behavior or the determinants of behavior are also of interest. Use of, or exploration of, social science-based models (e.g., the health belief model) for explaining the relationships between determinants and behaviors are desirable. Projects that do not explicitly address provider behavior (e.g. studies of patient behavior only) are unlikely to receive funding.

Determinants of Healthcare Provider Behavior



Types of Projects Considered for Funding: Project proposals are evaluated based on the likelihood that they will produce products that support the Center's research mission. Such products include external grant funding, professional presentations and published papers. Projects that add a healthcare provider behavior focus to existing funded research projects that provide pilot data to

support anticipated grant submissions, that carry out new analyses of existing data, or that prepare manuscripts for submission are all suitable. Project grants are typically small: it is generally not possible to complete all phases of an original research project with LIP funding.

Submitting Applications for Project Funding: Submit projects for initial review by your local site director at any time. Proposals forwarded by site directors at least two weeks prior to the monthly Site Directors meeting will be reviewed at that meeting. Proposals received less than two weeks prior to a Site Directors meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mentorship: Each project should include the involvement of an Associate or Full Professor (or equivalent) from a Center core institution. Center Site directors can assist investigators in finding a mentor.

Center Core Institutions and Site Directors are:

SITE	Site Director	Site Administrator	Phone Number
VAGLAHS Sepulveda	Lisa Rubenstein	Vera Snyder-Schwartz	818/891-7711, x5488
VAGLAHS WLA	Paul Shekelle	Yelena Kholodenko	310/478-3711, x48354
UCLA	Martin Shapiro	Victor Gonzalez	310/794-2288

Resources Available from the Center: A typical Center project can receive up to \$2,500 in direct funding and up to \$10,000 in in-kind services, but project budgets vary widely in their amount and distribution. Total requests for in-kind and cash requirements should be below \$15,000. The cost-effectiveness of the Center's investment in the project and the Center's overall LIP portfolio are important factors in funding decisions. In-kind services include support for programming, statistics, project management, survey design, and production. The Center can also facilitate access to experts in program evaluation, quality of care, appropriateness, economics, organizational theory, psychology, and other areas. **Please note that no travel funds are available.**

Obligations of Center-Funded Investigators: Principal investigators will be asked to present project plans and results at Center "Health Services Research" seminars. The Center should be notified of, and acknowledged on, project products, including publications. (Instructions for proper citation are essential and are available from the Center). Telephone progress reports will be requested every quarter. Site directors or their designates will follow up on any issues or problems that have arisen.

For additional information: Copies of the one-page "Instructions for Preparing Applications for LIP Funding" are available from your Site Director, Site Administrator or the Center Administrator, Vera Snyder-Schwartz (818-891-7711 x5488, email: vera.snyder@med.va.gov).